

What Would Happen...

Imagine if these crazy scenarios actually came true!

What would happen if you had an invisibility cloak? What if Earth's continents had never broken up? Nat Geo Kids tracked down the answers to these and other curious questions...

...if Earth's gravity disappeared?

Things would really be **up in the air!** Gravity is the force that **pulls objects towards Earth's centre**, keeping objects – and us! – grounded. It also **holds the planet together**. If this force vanished, anything that's not secured to the ground would **float off** into space – including water from oceans, lakes and rivers! Buildings might remain in place for some time, but the people, animals and items inside would **weightlessly drift upwards**, a bit like astronauts do in space. And eventually, without gravity to keep Earth intact, **the planet would break into pieces**. Luckily scientists agree that it's impossible for Earth's gravity to disappear, so that's a weight off our shoulders!



...if you got sucked into a black hole?

Want to be a **space adventurer**? Well, stay away from these dark destinations during your jaunt across the galaxy! Most **black holes** form when **dying stars collapse**, creating an area of space with an **extremely strong gravitational force** that **sucks in** anything nearby. If you were dragged into one of these locations, the force of gravity would cause you to become **longer and thinner** until you were as thin as **spaghetti!** Eventually you'd be stretched so thin that everything would **snap** into smaller and smaller bits. Luckily, the chances of you actually encountering a black hole are, well, beyond slim!



...if Earth's continents had never broken apart?

It would be a bad break for humans. Around **200 million years ago**, Earth had just one giant landmass called **Pangaea**. Over time the movement of large **plates** that make up the **outer layer of Earth's crust** broke Pangaea into **several continents**, which **slowly drifted** to their **current locations**. If Earth's land had stayed as one gigantic continent, moisture from the ocean would **dry** before reaching the area's vast **interior**, likely making it **desert-like**. **Reptiles** often thrive in dry conditions, so if Pangaea still existed, it might be overrun with them. Hope you like lizards!



...if you had a time machine?

You could head back to **Ancient Egypt**, zip to the **Victorian era** or hurtle into the future. But don't expect to change history by, say, introducing **King Tut** to a smartphone. Some scientists think it's possible that our universe is one of many alternate '**parallel**' universes, each with its own timeline (yes, really!). And if time travel *could* happen, they reckon a **new universe** with a **different timeline** would form the moment the traveller did something to alter the future. But nothing would change in your original timeline, so when you returned to your jumping-off point, you wouldn't see the consequences of your trip. Other scientists think there's only one universe with one timeline that cannot be changed no matter what. So if you were hoping to **alter history** to become a zillionaire in the present, you're out of luck!



...if you owned an invisibility cloak?

Scientists are actually researching whether it's possible to manufacture **invisible materials** that can be used to create objects! That means **invisibility cloaks** might be a reality one day. If so, you'd be able to play a lot of **practical jokes**. **Spies** would undoubtedly wear the cloaks to **eavesdrop on enemies**, and **soldiers** would use them to launch **sneak attacks**. But the cloak's material could also **save energy** – and **lives!** It might be manufactured into the walls and roofs of **homes**, which could be switched into '**transparent mode**' during the day to let in light and heat. And **surgeons** could wear **gloves** made with the fabric to **see through their hands** as they operate on patients. Now that's *clearly* cool.

